

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

February Meeting

**“KPH Maritime Radio: The
San Francisco Heartbeat
of the Pacific Basin”
by Bill Ruck, W6VSY**

**Wednesday February 12
Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr
(southwest corner) in San Jose
Map at www.wvara.org/meetings.html

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

Club Net

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at www.wvara.org/net.html .

Visitors Are Welcome!

President's Letter

The State of the Club

At a meeting of the board of directors of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association last month, we reviewed the state of the club. In general, things are in reasonably good shape.

Our finances are sound, and should get better with the April 12 De Anza Electronics Flea market, where we sell refreshments. We do have some expenses that may eat into our bank account. There may be some expenses for the repeater. See below. In addition, the aluminum crank-up tower on our tower trailer is showing signs of wear. Jon is keeping his eye out for replacements which occasionally come available as houses with towers are sold.

We have several operating events scheduled. Field Day continues to be a popular activity. Planning for this year is proceeding well, and I'm looking forward to spending another night on Mora Hill. The summer picnic will include some very low key operating along with the usual food and friends. Tom and I had enough fun the first weekend in August playing in the



California QSO party from Kings County that several other people are already planning on joining us.

The 6M repeaters filter cans are being retuned. When they are working well, we will assess if we need a new antenna. There is some interest in installing an IRLP link on the repeater. We will ask the hospital if we can hook into their wired network. We think IRLP might be quite useful in certain emergency scenarios. Kevin has been working with the hospital keeping our relationship on an even keel.

We are considering having a kit building evening where people can build a simple kit as an introduction to electronic construction. We will discuss it at the next meeting, but please let me know if you are interested.

We also have the usual social events planned: regular meetings, summer picnic, and holiday party.

73,
Bill Frantz, AE6JV

About the Presentation

KPH Maritime Radio: The San Francisco Heartbeat of the Pacific Basin



If you are interested in the history of radio — especially maritime radio communications, you won't want to miss this month's meeting on Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00pm. Bill Ruck will be speaking on "KPH Maritime Radio: The San Francisco Heartbeat of the Pacific Basin". Details on this topic are presented below. Visitors are welcome, and of course there will be chocolate chip cookies.

And for those who are hungry, several of us will be eating dinner prior to the meeting at Subway (2585 North First Street, at the corner of W Trimble and First St.) at 6:00pm. **(Note: our previous dinner location, Carl's Jr, has closed.)**

Hope to see you there!

Jim Peterson, K6EI

Member of the WVARA Speaker Selection Committee

Until Marconi's invention of wireless radio transmission in the late 1890s/early 1900s, ships sailed from port and disappeared until they arrived at their destination. In 1905, maritime radio station KPH began transmitting from the top of the San Francisco's Palace Hotel (hence the call letters), and was one of the first marine radio stations on the West coast. Marine radio, using Morse code, made commercial shipping safer and more efficient, and KPH maritime radio was the voice of the Pacific mercantile trade for most of the years from 1905 to 1999.

KPH was burned out of the Palace in the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, and rebuilt itself twice before moving to Marin County in 1920. By 1930, KPH had a transmitting station in Bolinas and receiving stations in Marshall and Point Reyes. The history of KPH parallels the history of merchant and commercial shipping in San Francisco and the Pacific Rim. KPH transmitted the news about the bombing

of Pearl Harbor in 1941 and transmitted the last-ever commercial Morse radio message before the industry died July 12, 1999, a victim of satellite communications.

Bill Ruck has been a radio enthusiast since he was very young and heard his father's stories of being a radio mechanic for the U.S. Army, servicing radios on Liberty and Victory ships during World War II. Bill was an aviation electronics technician in the Navy during the Vietnam War and spent the next 20 years working as an engineer for local San Francisco radio stations KFOG-KNBR. For the past 15 years he has been Principal Engineer with CSI Telecommunica-



tions, Inc. He holds an FCC General Radiotelephone Operator License with Ship Radar Endorsement and is a Certified Telecommunications Engineer with a Master RF Radiating Endorsement from iNARTE. He is a third-generation native San Franciscan. Recently he was named "Fellow for Historic Preservation" by the California Historical Radio Society for his work on the KPH Project.

WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)					
Each Tuesday at 8:30 PM					
All Repeaters Linked Together During Net					
Call Sign	Name	1/14/14	1/21/14	1/28/14	2/4/14
AA6RB	Roy	X			
AB6XS	Kevin			X	
AE6JV	Bill				X
AF6AE	Bill	X		X	X
K6BRF	Bert	X	X		X
KD6VOR	Marv		X	X	
KE6BCS	Mo				X
KF6EMB	Svend		X	X	X
KF6UTE	Casey				X
KJ6CQJ	Dean	X	X		
KJ6GMO	Sue	X	X		
KK6IPT	Patrick	X			
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KS6PD	Steve		X	X	
W6ESL	Tom				X
W6HOC	Howard	X	X	X	X
W6PK	Phil	X			X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X
TOTAL		10	9	8	11

Awards Presented at the Holiday Party

Thank You for Your Service for the Club!



Bill, AE6JV
President



John, NU6P
Vice President



Jon, K6WV
Treasurer



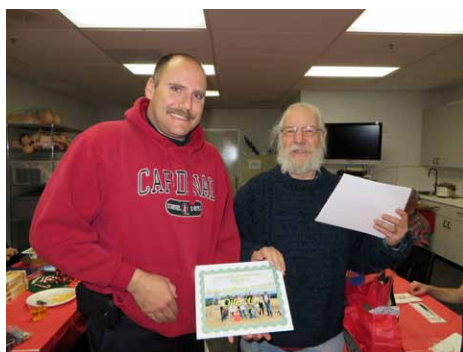
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Director



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Director



Svend, KF6EMB
Director



Brian, KG6BKl
Director



Dave, WB6KHP
Director



Chuck, AD6CL
Repeater Trustee & Technician



Anita
Cookie Manufacturer

WVARA 2014 Dues Are Due

A reminder to EVERYONE that 2014 Dues are due Jan 1 and overdue Jan 31. All memberships are annualized on this date, regardless of when you joined or last paid your dues.

Please log on to our website (wvara.org) and paypal your dues. Failing that, come to the meeting and bring your cash or check. If you can't do that - send a check to our PO box address as listed on the website.

Thanks!

73, Jon K6WV

Club Treasurer

Items For Sale By George, N6NKT:

Hy-Gain TH-7DX, 7 Element, Tri-Band, 10/15/20M \$300

Manual available at <http://www.hy-gain.com/support.php?productid=TH-7DX>

Down from Palo Alto ARC office, disassembled and located in Cupertino

KLM KT-34, 4 Element, Tri-Band, 10/15/20M \$200

Boonton 92EA RF Voltmeter \$200

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt at yahoo dot com

Send Buy and Sell information to: het_editor at wvara dot org

2014 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board

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See You At The Meeting!